



BOOKER TALIAFERRO WASHINGTON

Born near Hale's Ford, Va., about 1859; teacher at Malden, W. Va.; graduated Hampton Institute, 1875; teacher at Hampton when elected as head of Tuskegee Institute, 1881, which he organized under the direction of the state and has made one of the most successful industrial educational institutions in the world. Harvard gave him the degree of A.M., 1896; Dartmouth, LL.D., 1901. Author of many books on the history and progress of the Negro. A public speaker of remarkable ability. Founder and president, since 1900, of the National Negro Business League.

universities in the country, and is to-day recognized by both Northern and Southern men as one of the most useful citizens of our country. He has done perhaps more than any other one man to make his people believe in the dignity of work of the hand. It was natural that, after the war, the blacks should have felt that manual labor, because of its connection with slavery, was a

disgrace. When Mr. Washington left Hampton, instead of going to a city, he went to the "black belt" of Alabama and started a school of the most unpopular type, in which the emphasis was laid upon the work of the hand. It is very largely due to his leadership that the colored people have come to understand that their true progress is to be fought out on the soil and very largely with their own hands.

The Tuskegee Institute has sent out thousands of young men and women who have taught the people of their communities this same lesson of the dignity of labor. It is of the greatest importance, if the Negro race is to make progress, that it become possessed of land and that it remain in the country districts of the South. Mr. Washington's influence has been very strong in holding his people upon the land and in helping them to acquire their own homes. To-day the Negro race owns land equal to the whole of Belgium and Holland, and no single man has had more to do with the bringing of this about than Mr. Washington. His farmers' conferences have representatives from five different states who come to tell

the story of their struggles toward home and land getting, and accomplish an important result for the Negro race.

The Business Men's League, which Mr. Washington started, and of which he is the president, has encouraged the Negro race to believe in the business ability of the black man. In bringing these Negro business men together and giving them instruction in business methods, and encouraging them to believe in the capacity of their own people, he has done much to increase the business efficiency of the race.

No single man has been able to accomplish more toward bringing about pleasant relations between the two races than Mr. Washington. Wherever he has gone he has taught his



MRS. MARGARET MURRY WASHINGTON

Born, Macon, Miss., March 9, 1865. Graduated Fisk University, 1889. Teacher of English Literature and later lady principal at Tuskegee Institute. Married Dr. Washington, 1892. First president National Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.